SUMMER Safety Notes on…

Severe Summer Weather

Each season brings its own hazards. In winter, cold temperatures bring sleet, ice, and snow. Summer brings not only the hot sun but wind and rain as well. Although high winds and torrential rain may sound good during the hot sticky months of summer, they pose a great hazard to people and places.

Contrary to popular belief, tornadoes, hurricanes, thunderstorms, and flooding can occur anywhere in the United States. However, these weather systems predominantly affect the states east of the Rocky Mountains.

It is important to remember that each weather system is different from the last. Although you may have experienced a hurricane as a child, the next one will be drastically different. Always heed the advice of the professionals. When severe weather arises – seek shelter immediately. Stay in an interior space such as a hallway or bathroom with no windows or exterior doors. Evacuate if necessary. Have supplies such as extra clothing, non-perishable food and water, and a first aid kit - prepared beforehand. Once the weather system has passed, proceed with great caution. If you were told to evacuate – return to your home when told to do so.

When it is safe, inspect the outside of your home for structural damage – cracked foundation, separated stairs from porch, etc. Never use an open flame when inspecting. Be cautious of fallen electrical lines and displaced animals.

Lightning, a typical summertime occurrence, is equal parts mystifying and dangerous. Lightning gives no warning. It strikes the earth about 20 million times each year or about 100 times every second. You do not have to be struck directly to be affected. Lightning can jump from nearby objects that have been struck. When you are outside – follow the “30\30 Rule”.

Go indoors, if after seeing lightning you cannot count to 30 before hearing thunder. Stay indoors for 30 minutes after hearing the last clap of thunder.

No place is safe against severe weather. The best way to be safe is to seek shelter immediately, be prepared, and listen to the experts.